

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 272109

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 272109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS; JOFFREY BALLET
RE RETURN TOUR PROPERTIES

REF: A) STATE 140497; B) MOSCOW 10098

1. PAA WASHINGTON HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY ARRANGING RETURN OF ELECTRICS VIA REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIRLINES. THERE IS ALSO RISK OF DELAYS AND LOSS BY SPLITTING ELECTRICS IN TWO SEPARATE SHIPMENTS. PAA NOW IN CONTACT WITH PAA AGENT IN MOSCOW RE USE OF CHARTER FOR ELECTRICS MOSCOW-JFK O/A DECEMBER 20 WITH CRAWFORD CONCURRENCE. DEPT SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSAL AS BEING MOST PRACTICAL. CHARTER COSTS FOR RETURN OF ELECTRICS MOSCOW-JFK DOLS 16,500; COSTS VIA COMMERCIAL AIRLINES DOLS 18,600 (20,000 LBS X 93 CENTS PER POUND). COST PER POUND IS EXISTING CARGO SHIPMENT RATE. CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ALLOW FOR RETURN OF MAJOR PORTION IF NOT ALL OF PROPERTIES NOT JUST ELECTRICS. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN GREATER SAVINGS TO SOVS SINCE THEIR WOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR RETURN BALANCE OF PROPERTIES VIA SURFACE.

2. APPRECIATE EMB OFFICER AND DEPT ESCORT MCGUIRE DISCUSS WITH GOSK AND MOSCOW PAA AGENT IN DETAIL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 272109

3. ADVISE. INGERSOLL

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